

**HCA Health Benefit Exchange Technical Advisory
Committee Orientation Meeting Notes
Wednesday, July 20, 2011
2:30-3:30pm**

Conference Call: US/CAN Toll Free: 1-888-450-5996
Participant Pass Code: 716538

2:30-2:45pm

Welcome and Introductions

- HCA welcome

HCA Participant: Molly Voris, Health Insurance Exchange Program Manager

TAC Participants: Lisa Brandenburg, Don Conant, Sean Corry, Jim DeVleming, Scott Douglas, Jim Grazko, Anne Howland, Norm Inaba, Robert Lien, Sheryl Lowe, Karen Merrikin, Jim Pinkerton, Sue Sharpe, Howard Springer, and Rudy Vasquez.

Molly noted the effort with the Washington State Medical Association (WSMA) to invite a physician member and who that will be is still to be determined. Molly also announced that all TAC conference calls will be public and that materials pertaining to the meetings will be available on the website: <http://www.hca.wa.gov/hcr/exchange.html>

- TAC member introductions

Committee members introduced themselves in the following order:

-Lisa Brandenburg- Lisa is from Seattle Children's Hospital and brings to the TAC a hospital and health care provider perspective serving Medicaid and underserved patients.

-Don Conant- Don is General Manager of Valley Nut and Bolt in South Olympia. He is a member of the AWB in Washington. He brings a small businesses perspective to the TAC.

-Sean Corry- Sean is the President of Sprague Israel Giles and runs the employee benefits department. He is a former member of the Office of the Insurance Commissioner's (OIC) Realization Committee. He also brings a small businesses perspective to the TAC.

-Jim DeVleming- Jim is an optometrist in Pullman, Washington and runs a small clinic with four other employees. He also brings a small businesses perspective to the TAC.

-Scott Douglas- Scott lives in Olympia and holds a law degree. He brings a consumer perspective to the TAC.

-Jim Grazko- Jim is the General Manager of Underwriting at Premera. The perspective he brings to the TAC is an effort to balance risk and reward and how the Exchange can be a viable entity.

-Anne Howland- Anne is the President of Surgical Instrument Service/First Mobile, a small business that has been in operation for 21 years. She is a member of the AWB Health Care committee and brings a payroll and human relations perspective to the TAC.

-Norm Inaba- Norm runs Inaba Produce, a farm in Wapato, Washington. He is also a member of the Mt. Adams Health Foundation, was a member of the Health Insurance Partnership (HIP) Board, and has advised the Basic Health Plan. He brings an agricultural employer perspective to the TAC.

-Sheryl Lowe- Represented by Jim Roberts- Jim is with the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board which works closely with Sheryl's organization, the American Indian Health Commission. He brings expertise on the rules and regulations for tribal health programs. Particular tribal issues specific to the Exchange include the application and enrollment process, protections, IT use, enrollment, outreach and problem solving.

-Karen Merrikin- Karen represents Group Health Cooperative (GHC) which is the largest integrated delivery system carrier and insurer in Washington State. GHC covers Medicare, Medicaid, small, individual and group beneficiaries. Her background is in law and health policy and she has been advising GHC throughout health care reform. She chaired the HIP technical advisory committee and also sat on the IOC Realization Committee.

-Jim Pinkerton- Jim is Assistant Director at Regence. He has been involved with health insurance exchanges for 4-5 years. He sits on the Boards of the Utah Health Exchange and HIP and is also a member of the technical advisory committee. He has worked with Blue Cross/Blue Shield, the Association of Washington Health Plans (AWHIP) on risk adjustment efforts. The perspective he brings to the TAC is to establish a viable market in Washington.

- Howard Springer- Howard is from the Community Health Plan of Washington (CHPW) which administers the state subsidized health plans that cover people from 0-400% FPL. He brings to TAC a state program perspective as well as insight to issues from CHPW's market segment.

-Rudy Vasquez- Rudy is Multicultural Services Director from Sea Mar Community Health Center. He has served on the HIP Board. He has a history of working with communities of color and health disparities. He brings these populations' issues as a perspective to TAC.

-Sue Sharpe- Sue represents St. Luke's Foundation which funds health-care related and health access programs in the community. She is on the Board of the Whatcom for Alliance for Health Care Access and co-chaired the OIC realization committee with Sean Corry. She has also worked with HIP. The perspective she brings to the TAC is how Exchanges will contribute to access on a local level.

- Robert Lien- Robert works with Northwest Insurance Agencies and has worked in the insurance field for 34 years. His company provides plans to employers, individuals and families. The perspective he brings to TAC is the role of the health insurer and broker which is important and will change as Exchanges develop.

2:45-3:00pm

Purpose and Responsibilities of Technical Advisory Committee

- Provide feedback to HCA on policy options for 2012 legislative session
- Provide summary of work to exchange board when appointed

Molly described that the legislation ([Senate Bill 5445](#)) laid out a public-private partnership Exchange that will be governed by a Board. Since this is not legislated to be in place until March 2010, the HCA wants advice and feedback from a group (the TAC), particularly leading up to the 2012 legislative session. She expressed hope that this group would provide technical feedback on policy options. Policy option papers, written by consultants, will be sent to the TAC for review. These papers will be framing documents that lay out options under the topics (basically, outlines for future papers). The point of discussion among the

TAC will include are we framing the issue and covering it? Policy papers will also be sent to the Exchange email listserv as well as posted on the website for general public written comments. After the TAC has their discussion and public comments are collected, HCA will come back to the TAC with another paper (with the “meat on the bones”) which will serve as a policy discussion piece for the pros and cons of the issues. Finally, a final draft paper will go to the Joint Legislative Select Committee Health Reform Implementation (JSC) for their discussion. Along the way of the process from policy outline to final draft, the aim is to incorporate the feedback of the TAC and public. The final draft aims to be a discussion framework for the governor and legislature.

The list of policy options is not exhaustive and the schedule is tentative. The Federal Basic Health Option outline will be sent later in the week.

The guiding principles of the TAC are to provide technical expertise and share the experience that you have from your field. Inherently, politics will come up but the TAC strives to stick to the technicalities of these policy issues.

Once the Exchange Board is appointed, a summary of the TAC’s discussion will help them to transition and catch up. The TAC will help the Board in their education. It is important to lay out that we don’t know what will happen to the TAC in March.

Jim Pinkerton asked who is on the HCA team. Molly answered that the team is ramping up and currently includes herself and newly hired Nelly Gozdek, Program Specialist, who will be the main contacts for the TAC. The team also gets support from various HCA staff including Michael Arnis who helps out with policy issues, Beth Walter who is assisting with the operational build and Richard Onizuka who is the lead in all of this work.

Karen Merrikin asked who is on the consulting team. Molly answered with the following list:

- Federal Basic Health option: Amy Lischko who has a developing the Massachusetts Connector under Governor Romney. Amy was chosen for this work because she is neutral and unbiased about the options.
- Criteria for qualified health plans: Deborah Chollet.
- Preventing adverse selection: 1st phase: Barb Flye who works with the OIC; 2nd phase: Actuarial work done by Milliman.
- Risk leveling, including future of WSHIP: 1st phase: WSHIP, Karen Larsen and Deborah Chollet; 2nd phase: what risk adjustment may look like done by Milliman.
- Administrative ease within SHOP exchange: Wakely Consulting including Jon Kingsdale and Pat Holland who were also involved in the Massachusetts Connector.
- Exchange financing: Wakely Consulting including Jon Kingsdale and Pat Holland.
- Navigator roles and functions: An RFP is being developed for an organization to take on the analysis and communications/marketing/branding/public outreach strategy.
- Federally-defined essential health benefits and relation to state-mandated benefits: Mark Gibson (Center for Evidence-Based Policy at OHSU), Paul Goldberg and Alan Mills with Milliman.

3:00-3:15pm

Next Steps

- Send policy options on federal Basic Health program later this week
- Schedule a TAC call on Monday/Tuesday to discuss
- Future topics and scheduling

Molly announced that the Federal Basic Health option outline will be sent later this week to TAC members, listserv and legislators so that the discussion can get started soon. She also announced a TAC conference call for Monday or Tuesday morning prior to the JSC meeting on Tuesday afternoon. At the JSC meeting, she will provide an overview of where this group is in their process.

3:15-3:30pm

TAC member questions followed by public comment

TAC Members/ Public

TAC Member Questions:

Jim Roberts asked about the how the chosen consultants' expertise with the Indian health system. He asked how the Tribes will work with consultant to make sure their voice is heard. He also suggested that Tribal policy papers be written on the same topics.

Molly answered that the HCA is cognizant of the issues and is working with Sheryl Lowe, Jim and others to address them. She suggested a separate conversation. The opportunity to comment on the framing of the issue through these meetings may also address the voice of the tribes.

Jim also asked if there will be an opportunity to engage with the consultants. Molly answered that a process to how that would work hasn't been decided yet.

Howard Springer asked if the timeline for this process includes time for the TAC's response. Molly answered that there will be no written feedback necessary from the TAC and for future policy option outlines, more lead time (a week) will be provided. Molly also emphasized that the TAC members' representative organizations also take time to provide written feedback.

Karen Merrikin asked if the TAC support the work of the JSC and what is the TAC's role in relation to the JSC. Molly answered that the TAC is a committee for the HCA and we have worked with legislative staff to create the group. The JSC will create their own TAC if they feel they are not getting enough information/representation from this group. Mich'l Needham, who provides staff support to the JSC, added that stakeholder groups will hopefully be represented with this TAC. The role of this group will be to deal with the more technical issues and bring the JSC their feedback.

Public Questions:

Larry Cohen, a member of the Sklallam tribe, asked about the schedule of JSC meetings?

Mich'l Needham answered that the first meeting is Tuesday, July 26th from 1-5:30pm in Senate Hearing Room 4. It will also be broadcast on Live TVW. At this first meeting, the committee will review a proposed schedule which includes three additional meetings in September, October, and November. When the schedule is finalized it will be sent out to the Exchange listserv.

Molly thanked the TAC for the participation and concluded that we will be in touch with you soon about the next policy content call.